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Capabilities of Soviet General Purpose Forces

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

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CAPABILITIES OF SOVIET GENERAL PURPOSE FORCES

NOTE

This Memorandum is prompted by recent reviews of Soviet submarine and ground forces order-of-battle which require changes in the judgments made in the Intelligence Memorandum, "Capabilities of Soviet General Purpose Forces," dated 16 December 1966, SECRET, on the number and deployment of Soviet general purpose submarines and army line divisions.

DISCUSSION

1. As of 1 October 1966 about 340 submarines were estimated to be in the Soviet general purpose submarine force—including about 45 cruise missile submarines, nearly half of which were nuclear-powered.

2. A recent review of Soviet submarine order-of-battle indicates that as of 1 October 1966 there were actually about 325 general purpose submarines in the Soviet fleet, and that the cruise missile submarine force was slightly larger and had a greater proportion of nuclear-powered units than previously held. Since the nuclear-powered units are equipped with more missile launchers than the diesel-powered boats, approximately 265 launchers (rather than the previously held 250) were found to be in the cruise missile submarine force.

3. The greatest reduction in the number of torpedo attack submarines took place in the long range F-class—down 12 from the previously estimated 56 units. The number of nuclear-powered torpedo attack submarines in the force was reduced slightly—12-15 units rather than 17; production of the nuclear-powered N-class apparently halted sometime between 1963 and 1966. The number of torpedo attack submarines in the Northern Fleet was reduced from 120 to 102-105. The total number of torpedo attack submarines estimated for 1976

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has been reduced from 240 to 220, about half of which will probably be long-range diesel or nuclear-powered.

4. A recent review of Soviet ground forces order-of-battle indicated that the number of Category I and II line divisions previously carried was slightly high, while the number of Category III divisions was slightly low. These changes require no revision in the previous estimate of overall Soviet ground force capabilities.

5. Attached are new tables listing the estimated number and deployment of Soviet line divisions, and the estimated numbers and deployment of Soviet general purpose submarines by class and by fleet as of 1 October 1966. These tables supersede Tables I and IV, respectively, of the Intelligence Memorandum, dated 16 December 1966.

ESTIMATED NUMBERS AND DEPLOYMENT OF SOVIET LINE DIVISIONS

AREA	CATEGORY I AND II DIVISIONS							CATEGORY III DIVI- SIONS ^a
	MRD		Tank		ABN		Total	
	Cat. I	Cat. II	Cat. I	Cat. II	Cat. I	Cat. II		
East Germany.....	10	0	10	0	0	0	20	0
Poland.....	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
Hungary.....	2	0	2	0	0	0	4	0
Western USSR.....	11	3	6	11	3	0	34	8
Southwestern USSR.....	0	2	1	3	0	0	6	8
Northwestern USSR.....	0	4	0	1	1	0	6	4
Southern USSR.....	1	9	2	1	2	0	15	13
Central USSR.....	0	4	0	1	0	0	5	3
Far Eastern USSR.....	1	3	2	5	0	1	12	3
TOTAL.....	25	25	25	22	6	1	104	39 ^b

^a Of the 39 Category III Divisions 37 are probably motorized rifle divisions, 2 are probably tank divisions (located in Western and Southwestern USSR); there probably are no Category III airborne divisions.

^b This number may be as low as 33 or as high as 46. This range reflects uncertainty as to whether all of the units counted are in fact divisions.

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SUBMARINES BY CLASS, 1 OCTOBER 1966—BY FLEETS

	NORTH	BALTIC	BLACK	PACIFIC	TOTAL	MID-1967	MID-1968
Type of Submarine							
Cruise Missile							
Nuclear							
E-I Class.....	0	0	0	5	5	5	5
E-II Class.....	12-13	0	0	8	20-21	24-25	28-29
Subtotal.....	12-13	0	0	13	25-26	29-30	33-34
Diesel							
W-Conversion.....	6	3	1	3	13	13	13
J-Class.....	5-8	0	0	2	7-10	9-12	11-15
Subtotal.....	11-14	3	1	5	20-23	22-25	24-28
TOTAL Cruise Missile.	23-27	3	1	18	45-49	51-55	57-62
Torpedo Attack							
Nuclear							
N-Class.....	9-12	0	0	3	12-15	12-15	12-15
Follow-on.....	0-1	1-3
Diesel							
F-Class.....	27	3	0	14	44	48-50	52-56
Z-Class.....	8	5	0	7	20	20	20
R-Class.....	11	1	3	0	15	15	15
W-Class.....	47	48	26	46	167	165	160
Q-Class.....	0	10	5	0	15	15	15
M-Class.....	0	0	2	5	7	0	0
TOTAL Torpedo At- tack.....	102-105	67	36	75	280-283	275-281	275-284
TOTAL General Pur- pose Submarines.....	125-132	70	37	93	325-332	326-336	332-346

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